

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /080 W
----- 038981

R 090901Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MOPS, IS, EG
SUBJECT: KNESSET DEBATES EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS OF INTERIM AGREEMENT

1. THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE KNESSET'S SEPTEMBER 7 SPECIAL SESSION, THE FOURTH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT RECESS, WAS A LIKUD MOTION ON EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS OF INTERIM AGREEMENT. LIKUD SPEAKERS CHARGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONCEALED EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS FOR A LONG PERIOD AND THEN MADE LIGHT OF THEM AFTER VIOLATIONS WERE REVEALED.

2. SPEAKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, DEFENSE MINISTER PERES DID NOT MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF VIOLATIONS BUT IN CALM, STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER OUTLINED EACH EGYPTIAN VIOLATION CLAIMED BY ISRAEL AND CAIRO'S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S REMONSTRATIONS. PERES STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALERT TO THE SITUATION AND INTENDS TO APPLY PRESSURE ON CAIRO "THROUGH THE UN" UNTIL OUTSTANDING VIOLATIONS ARE RECTIFIED, AND IN EFFECT ASKED WHAT MORE WOULD THE LIKUD HAVE THE GOVERNMENT DO. HE STRESSED THAT IT WOULD BE A POLITICAL MISTAKE FOR ISRAEL TO DIVERT THE FOCUS OF WORLD ATTENTION
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FROM INTRA-ARAB STRIFE (LEBANON, EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN BORDER)

TO THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISPUTE. PERES ADDED THAT HE
FAVORED INTERIM AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AND
THOUGHT ISRAEL SHOULD CONSIDER ANOTHER WITH EGYPT IF
CONDITIONS WERE RIGHT. THE LIKUD MOTION WAS THEN GIVEN
THE ROUTINE TREATMENT OF REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.

3. COMMENT: FOR THE TIME BEING THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS
TO WANT A CESSATION OF PUBLIC AIRING OF THE WHOLE QUES-
TION OF SINAI II VIOLATIONS. THESE FREQUENT KNESSET
SPECIAL SESSIONS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS THE BEGINNING OF
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE 1977 ELECTION. THE LABOR PARTY'S
LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THESE SESSIONS IS REFLECTED IN
A COMMENT BY ONE LABOR PARTY MK WHO COMPLAINED THAT EACH
ONE-DAY SPECIAL SESSION "WASTES" IL 50,000.
TOON

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